

Addendum to January 17, 2012 SEAP Minutes

Questions asked during "Common Core Standards/Assessment" agenda item

In response to a question from Sue Douglas to repeat information stated:

Core content connectors are going to replace the alternate standards.

Nancy Williams: Will the assessment be online?

Answer: The third grade assessment will be paper and pencil; the online assessment will begin at either 4th or 5th grade and will go through high school. For the general assessment

Ms. Williams: Will the assessment be capable of being printed for students who aren't used to seeing information electronically?

Answer: Great statement! Committee members are seeing this as the new accommodation. For students that need to see that hard copy that would probably be an accommodation. That is part of the plan.

Ralph Tillapaugh: What about student identity security?

Answer: That is a huge challenge. Part of the RFP, related to technology, is focused on assessment access and where the data goes. Each of the states within the consortium is protective of their own data. They don't want it to be out on one big server where everybody logs on.

Robert Hill: I appreciate the current administration and the Department's commitment for accessibility, speaking for students who are deaf and blind across the state. The caveat is that there is no standardized math instruction for students who are visually impaired. So each state within the PARCC consortium may teach math instruction differently.

Answer: Our committee has had some discussions regarding this issue. As we begin to see items, and as we start to do all those reviews, it is almost state individual. In addition to the challenges of dealing with disabilities, especially visually-impaired students, they also have a huge concern related to different populations. Example: Native American. There are also some challenges in addressing the needs of the hard of hearing.

Mr. Hill: It is difficult to send my instructors for training during the school year. I can't find substitutes that can successfully work with this group of students. So a day of training for teachers is a lost day of instruction for the students. Recommended a Summer Assessment Institute. This institute was put on by the Alternate Assessment from the Assessment Unit in July.

Kay Turner: Where is the Common Core Standards/Assessment material/information on the ADE website?

Answer: The information is located in two places: Assessment and Standards and Exceptional Student Services.

Ms. Ahumada is creating screenshots to help users access the information.

Dr. Turner: I learned at the last meeting that the functional standards are now the alternate standards; they are listed in bold under each of the standards. In the document that's on the website, are the English Language Arts (ELA) the new common core?

Answer: Right now Arizona will continue to use the alternate standards for the duration of this school year. However, next year when Arizona phases in the Core Content Connectors, the information will be uploaded to the ADE website. The information hasn't been released yet.

Dr. Turner: To be clear: The alternate standards are not yet out under the new 2010 ELA?

Answer: They will not be out. They will actually be removed after this school year.

Ms. Williams: When the Core Content Connectors come out will they be structured similarly to how the alternate standards are now? You see the general ed standard and then you'll see the core connectors underneath?

Answer: The core content connectors will look different from the alternate standards because they will have the common core standard, the core content connector in the middle and then a learning progression framework. They will be double-aligned: to learning progression and to the common core standards.

Mr. Hill: Is there a resource available for parents?

Answer: There are brochures on AIMS A available for parents. [Panel members were provided copies of the brochures, available in English and Spanish.] The brochure is also available online.

Mr. Hill: Please make sure that PEAs are informed as soon as possible what infrastructure they will need in place prior to the new assessment.

Gail Jacobs: Students in the Secure Care system can't access web-based assessments. Will we need a paper and pencil accommodation for all of our students?

Mr. Hill: Will districts be able to opt out of online testing and choose to give all of their students the paper and pencil version of the test?

Answer: There will guidance out for these situations.